

THE FRENCH ADMINISTRATION OF INDO-CHINA

*k out some of Doumer's unrealizable schemes. Resentment of fiscal discipline increased in Indo-China with the repercussions of the Japanese victory of 1905. For the first time under Beau there emerged clearly a serious problem. The decline of the piastre was the final blow. To meet the disasters, Beau had only one solution to offer—the moral quest of Indo-China by education and by medical service.

Beau's nomination was typical of Paris's concern for its colony. He was quite without colonial experience, and what interests he had were [red in China and Siam. Political motives played the primary role, Indo-China was a plum for political merit or for dangerous

liamentary ability. The frequent gubernatorial changes—and

y new Governor brought his own satellites—made the pursuit

regular policy impossible. Primarily it unsettled the natives, who

!d get used to anything provided it did not mean constant

ige. The only uniformity shown by Governors was their short

ire of office,

eau bore the full brunt of the antagonism which

Doumer's policy

aroused in the local services. Many of these men felt that their

: years of service had entitled them to the highest position.

So, of jealousy, they presented the paralysing force of inertia to any

iges inaugurated by the new Governor-General. Inevitably they

, for they were permanent and their opponent transient. The

era! Services loafed in non-splendid isolation. What contacts they

among themselves and with the central government were bellicose.

y were particularly recalcitrant at any kind of financial control.

lesser functionaries, too many in number and too

poor in quality,
 e little effort to learn the Annamite language and so
 dispense with
 interpreters* noxious aid. The latter exploited
 their compatriots
 misled French officials. Too often were their
 dubious services
 irded by a mandarin's brevet. Not only was this
 new native
 ialdom hated by the Scholars whom it had
 displaced, but despised
 ke masses who had been taught to reverence this
 office. Sometimes
 people even selected a mandarin whom they were
 willing to obey,
 mgli he was without the legal investiture.
 sau*s most original contribution was Ms native
 policy. He restored
 ect for native institutions, and to the mandarin
 some of the
 butes which had disappeared Arough the
 encroachments of direct
 Ini&tratiofi. More government places were opened
 to the native
 tigentsia, to win their co-operation. Beau also
 created provincial
 ok, and the first advisory chamber in Tonkin. His
 was the first